(lakh hectares)

Crop	Area coverage during Rabi season	
	2007-08	2008-09
Wheat	262.14	262.66
Rice/Paddy	3.45	3.83
Pulses	120.72	128.80
Oilseeds	79.82	89.03

(c) and (d) Sowing of some of the Rabi crops also continues beyond 1st January. The details of normal area coverage (average of 2002-03 to 2006-07) at all India level under Rabi crops *vis-a-vis* areas covered under these crops as on 2nd January, 2009 and corresponding period of 2008 are as under:

(lakh hectares)

Normal area coverage under	Area coverage as on 2nd January	
Rabi crops	Rabi 2008-09	Rabi 2007-08
574.41	550.09	525.79

Floriculture promotion

558. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has taken various measures to promote floriculture in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a great demand of this commodity in foreign countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the export position of this commodity during the last three years; and

(d) whether its export has fallen down and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The Government is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (TMNE) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) hi the remaining States for enhancing horticulture production including flowers by adopting end-to-end approach covering production, post harvest management, processing and marketing.

(c) The details of the export of flowers (Fresh, dried flowers, plants, bulbs, etc.) for the last three years is as follows:-

(Qty: MT)

Value in; Rs. Crores (Mill US$)

2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
42979.59	394.4	50649.36	774.29	46397.84	482.27
	(89.06)		(172.06)		(114.83)

(d) Yes, Sir. The export of Indian floriculture product has shown a decline in 2007-08 over 2006-07 due to following reasons:-

(i) Stiff competition from Africa in view of their low production cost, comparatively low air freight and zero import duty for European Union (EU) countries.

(ii) Lack of adequate cold chain infrastructure.

(iii) High input costs like fertilizers, pesticides, planting material etc.

(iv) High air freight rates and handling charges at airports.

Comparative production of crops to our neighbouring countries

†*559. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during recent years from 2005-08 the annual agriculture productivity growth rate in India has been less in comparison to that of our neighbouring countries Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the increase in annual productivity of wheat, rice, pulses and other grains in the above countries and India; and

(c) the average target fixed during the said period to increase annual productivity growth rate in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) As per reports of Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO) available up to the year 2006-07, the growth rates in productivity of wheat, rice, pulses and coarse grains during 2005-06 and 2006-07 in India *vis-a-vis* our neighboring countries namely, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are given in the table below:

Country	Rice		Wheat		Coarse grain		Pulses	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
India	1.15	0.55	0.66	2.01	4.18	9.65	50.94	-0.33
Pakistan	-0.32	0.9	-2.6	9.94	-5.91	12.06	0.86	0
Bangladesh	2.72	0	-12.23	34.06	13.89	-8.87	-16.08	-3.19
Nepal	-2.36	-5.88	-2.8	3.94	0.57	1.81	0.15	0.18
Sri Lanka	4.69	5.98	NA	NA	1.92	10.14	NA	NA

SOURCE: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) NA: Not available

(c) The annual targets fixed for production of rice, wheat, coarse cereals and pulses in India during the Agricultural years 2005-06 to 2008-09 are indicated in the table below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.